

I have often heard the term "caricatures" used to describe my work. Caricatures aptly describe my art's exaggeration and cartoonish qualities used to express the essence of something that has caught my eye.

In this show I explore a couple of the absurd themes that are a common theme for me: clowns, politics, birds, inventions, transportation systems, and history in general. I seek the illusive essence of various absurd or interesting (at first glance) realities, the truth in a joke's humor. Trying to see the illusive "Bird in the Hand" when the hand is so transparent or listen to Edison's doll phone invention.

My main direction for the last five years has been "Public Art" and designing art which reverberates parts of our lives and histories that are important commentaries with a humorous slant, like the green faced ladies sitting on the "City Council" with pink George Washington's portrait smiling from the wall.

I received my MFA in printmaking from California College of Arts and Craft, Oakland, California, and the joy of "reprinting" imagery in different formats is another sub-theme in this show. Imagery enhanced and "caricatured" like a 3" x 5" vintage postcard of a few men fishing on a sleepy afternoon "Way Down Upon the Suwanee River" which explodes into 40 tiles in a ceramic mural's billboard proportions of 21" x 33".

Funny, my art has been received lately by more and more venues. "City Council," a ceramic, is being considered in Italy's 35th International Ceramics Competition. "Freedom of Speech," a ceramic mural, is in the US Consulate in Caracas, Venezuela, and I was at a reception-celebration at the White House this last summer. One of my glass pieces is at the Berkeley Art Center as part of a group show. I have three cafe shows in the same month and of course the wonderful opportunity to share my art here in Redmond. Thank you. I hope you enjoyed my art and caricatures and would love to hear any observations.

Jessica Phrogus